



Parental Information and Update 18th June 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer

I continue to hope that you and your family are well and that you are coping with the challenges of our current situation. Further to my update on the 10th June, I am now in a position to share additional important information about our recovery planning. The following information has been planned within our authority guidelines and has also been shared with our Parent Council.

August 2020 dates for school return:

It has now been confirmed that Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th August 2020 will be Inservice days in East Renfrewshire, with children returning back to school on Wednesday 12th August.

Proportion and frequency of children coming into school and 'Blended Learning':

The proportion of children returning to school is essentially based upon our school's capacity, in line with the current national health & safety guidance. At this time, it remains the case that we are planning to maintain the two metre social distancing guidance and this of course will impact significantly upon the way we are able to use the school building. It also dramatically effects the number of children who can safely learn together in our classrooms.

From August 2020, each child will come into school on two days each week, with three days each week being 'Remote Learning' from home. In this way, we will be able to offer all of our children the same amount each week in this 'Blended Learning' model. For each class, it will be split into approximate halves, with one half attending school on Mondays and Tuesdays, and the other on Thursdays and Fridays.

Additional space to support social distancing:

Working on two metre social distancing, our school premises alone would not be able to support half of our school roll. In an effort to support getting as many children as possible into school each week, the Scottish Government and East Renfrewshire Authority have been encouraging schools to use additional premises where appropriate on a temporary basis. With this in mind, from August we will also be using space at Orchardhill Parish Church premises for learning activities for some of our Primary 3 to Primary 7 children. All of the appropriate risk assessments are in place and the authority have been delighted to authorise this use.

At this time, I would like to give a special and sincere thanks to Reverend Grant Barclay and all of our friends at the church who have been so caring and generous in supporting this relationship. Planning is already in hand for the resourcing and furnishing of the areas that



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we will be using at the church. More detail will follow regarding the arrangements for use of the church in the information shared with you next Tuesday 23rd June.

Provision for children from Key Worker families:

As has been the case across the country, our children from families of Key Workers who meet the specified criteria have been offered full day provision, five days each week. This will continue from August. You will have recently received an email and letter regarding qualification for these criteria, which will remain largely the same as has been the case previously.

For those children from Key Worker families who are in school for five days, they will still be provided with two days with their class teacher. The other three will be supported by a different member of our staff team in order for them to complete their remote learning activities.

In addition to children from Key Worker families, in exceptional circumstances some of our most vulnerable children may also be offered additional provision.

Our Nursery Class provision:

There is a commitment at this time to provide a similar provision in our nursery class establishments to that offered in primary schools, and it is hoped that this will help families in their arrangements for school. At Giffnock, and as for other nursery establishments in East Renfrewshire, each child will also be offered two full days each week (two eight hour days, equalling sixteen hours in total each week), with three days of Remote Learning activities.

Criteria for the allocation of days each week:

We realise that the allocation of only two days per week will create significant challenges for our families and we thank you in advance for your support and for working alongside the school in this difficult time. We have allocated Monday/ Tuesday days in school, or Thursday/ Friday days in school based upon fair and equitable criteria:

1. Capacity: total number of children allowed
2. Balance of approximate half class size
3. Key Worker and vulnerable children
4. Siblings being allocated the same days
5. Alphabetical ordering

We hope that you understand that it is not possible to make changes to this system, for example due to friendship/ social reasons, as this would become impossible to manage fairly.

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Days allocated:

We are pleased to confirm that your child has been allocated the following days in school each week:

Mondays and Tuesdays

A wide range of further, organisational information will be shared with you on Tuesday 23rd June, including regarding what 'Blended Learning' will look like, school entry times, entry points, uniform, lunches and other processes.

In the meantime, thank you for your ongoing support and co-operation.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Lawson'.

Rob Lawson

Head Teacher